

no. 107

ag. 107

Working Dogs for the Farm

4-H Club Project



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

4-H CIRCULAR 107

OCTOBER, 1952



One of the most important uses for dogs is that of the companion and guardian for small children. There are many breeds of dogs that make excellent companions but probably none is better than the working type shepherd commonly known as Border Collie. In many places, these dogs are known as English Shepherds but dogs of this type long have been used on American farms as stock-handling dogs. They can be trained to almost anything but are natural herd dogs.

Working Dogs for the Farm

4-H Club Project

This circular was prepared for members of 4-H Dog Project groups. All members selecting this project should note carefully the project requirements listed in the Record Form in the center of this circular.

The subject matter source for this material is the School of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture. If you use information and recommendations given here, you should have a profitable and enjoyable experience in the developing, training and breeding of dogs.

The 4-H Dog Project is built around the raising and training of a purebred dog with possible continuation of advanced special training and/or dog breeding.

SELECTING A DOG

The dog you select for your 4-H project should be the kind that will give you pride and satisfaction. To the care and development of such animals boys and girls are happy to give their very best. The dog should actually belong to you, so that the problems encountered will teach real lessons.

The Breed and Family

With dogs, as with other animals, purebreds are more likely to give top performance than cross breeds or mongrels. Mongrels are more or less unpredictable in appearance, ability and other characteristics. The pure bred dog is a known quantity so if you wish to know what to look for, plan to procure and raise a puppy of one of the recognized breeds. There are over a hundred breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club alone. The United KC and the North American Sheep Dog Society include still others. Much of the reason for your choice depends upon how you plan to use the dog.

The usual grouping of dogs is into Sporting Dogs, Hounds, Working Dogs, Terriers, Toy Dogs and Nonsporting Dogs. Many of these dogs may perform in a fine manner as multi-purpose dogs.

If you want a stock handling dog, remember such a dog should come from good working stock. Terriers have natural aptitude for killing rats while gun dogs are natural pointers or retrievers. Good animals of any

Prepared by Dr. A. A. Case, associate professor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, in collaboration with Robert S. Clough, state club agent. Acknowledgement and thanks are due Dr. A. H. Groth, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, for help in preparing this circular.



Good dog houses have smooth floors without thresholds for easy cleaning, a curtain for severe cold weather, adequate ventilation and as pictured, can be faced into the sun and yet have the benefit of shade during summer. The door can be hung on double action hinges from the side or the top. Note that the floor is elevated from the ground and that the ground slopes for good drainage. Coonhounds such as this are usually confined by day, hunted by night, and fed their principal meal in the morning. This hound doubles as pet, companion dog, and watch dog. He has a fine, gentle temperament with children and is a splendid trail hound. Many good hounds do not have gentle dispositions, but often this is because of the way they are trained and handled.

breed command attention and respect. The choice of breed is usually a matter of preference as each has certain strong points of its own although the type of market, price and the availability of some of the finer breeds make a difference in selection over others. There may be advantages in choosing a breed that is well known in an area rather than an uncommon breed.

You should be able to do a good job with any breed chosen, but should avoid breeds requiring special trims, grooming, ear trimming and other special care.

Identify Your Dog.—As with other purebred livestock, your dog should be plainly identified as your property. Usually, the dog has a short call-name in addition to its registered name and number. While dogs can be permanently identified by paw prints and tattoo, the usual practice is to have the owner's name, address, and telephone number stamped onto a metal plate attached to the collar or harness. The tax license and rabies immunization tags should also be attached to the collar which the dog must wear at all times.

The best age at which to buy a dog varies with the kind of dog, experience of the buyer and the purpose for which the dog is to be used. Most puppies should be at least four months old, although older, partially trained dogs are often available at somewhat higher prices. The older puppy which is an average size in the litter is usually a better choice than the smallest or largest individual of the litter. In selecting a puppy, if possible, study the parents for undesirable characteristics which may be inherited. Otherwise buy from a reliable dog breeder and always pick a healthy dog.

Choose Alert, Healthy Puppy.—If a puppy has a cough, diarrhea, or a temperature over 102°F, it probably is sick. Look at his teeth; they should be even, sharp, and white in color. The gums should be firm and pink with no offensive mouth odor. The nose should be moist and cool. The eyes should be clear and bright. Check the inside of the ears, and test the puppy for deafness.

The puppy should be alert and active, not dull or stupid. Its body should be free of malformations. The hair coat should be sleek and the skin pliable.

Be sure, if you plan to register your dog, that the necessary pedigree and registration are obtained with the puppy. If you plan to raise some puppies at a later date, get a female. For most purposes, the sex of the dog does not matter as females train and perform as well as males. Some experienced trainers prefer to own females, as they believe she has cleaner habits, is usually gentle, stays home better (except when in season) and is more reliable.

FEEDING AND CARE

Proper feeding, as with all kinds of livestock, ranks as one of the most important factors in raising healthy dogs. There are nearly as many ways of feeding as there are owners of dogs but the basic principles are the same. The use to which the dog is put often determines when and how much to feed. Night guard dogs are best fed in the morning. Day workers are given their main meal at evening. Hunters may perform best when hungry.

For one or two dogs, it is more convenient to buy one of several excellent commercial dog foods. Whether you feed meal, kiblets, canned dog food or a combination is largely a matter of preference as dogs can be trained to eat nearly anything including some mighty poor food (for dogs). Dogs can be and are self fed in some instances.

Feed According to Age and Size.—Puppies usually are weaned at about six weeks of age. Starting at four weeks, puppies can be given additional food in addition to milk. From six weeks on, the puppies will eat four meals a day. At six months, the feedings can be reduced to twice daily. Mature dogs are often given one meal per day. Lactating bitches and

dogs doing heavy work should be fed twice daily and they need more food in proportion than confined dogs which are at rest. Toy dogs can eat the same kind of ration that large breeds do except not nearly as much.

While the dog's body surface determines the number of calories per day necessary for maintenance, weight is a more convenient way to estimate the amount of feed needed each day. The average full grown dog can be maintained on a well balanced daily ration of 2 to 2½ ounces (dry weight) to each pound of the dog's weight. Puppies should be fed all they will willingly eat each feeding, as they require more food per pound body weight than mature dogs. For large breeds, it is well to continue two or three times per day feeding past first year. Generally, it is better to feed puppies more frequently and not as much at a time until they become mature dogs. One must use judgment in feeding mature dogs to keep the animal in proper condition.

Dogs, except puppies which are shedding their milk teeth, do not need bones to chew on. The mineral requirement can better be included in the home ration as steamed bone meal. There are instances where fowl bones and pork chop bones lodged in the mouth, throat, or digestive tract of dogs and caused the animal to die. Pieces of roasting ear cob also can lodge in the intestine of the dog.

Feed Balanced Ration.—However, there are many other things that dogs can safely eat, and when properly prepared, are excellent sources of food energy if the diet is properly balanced. The important things to remember in feeding dogs are palatability and proper balance with enough protein, minerals, vitamins, fats and carbohydrates to adequately provide for growth, work, gestation, lactation and maintenance of health. Bread, meat, cooked vegetables of all types, cereals and dairy products are all good to include in the diet.

Dogs have done well on such diverse formulas as poultry mash, hog feed mash, and feeder steer rations but generally, it would be wiser to use a formula better adapted to and especially prepared for dogs. There are dozens of commercial dog foods available and information for home mixed formulas is easily obtained. Proper feeding of the dog should present no problem. Rancid, stale, or musty feeds should never be used as dog feed.

CARE OF FEED AND WATER CONTAINERS

Containers for feed and water are available in many forms, sizes and materials. Metal bowls give the best service as to breakage and ease of cleaning although crockery bowls may do very well. Water pans should be thoroughly scrubbed several times weekly to keep them clean. Although dogs may not require as much water in winter when snow and ice are available, they should have access to water. In warm weather do not al-



A house for the small dog can be made easily from a salvaged shipping crate. Illustrated is a combination house and local transporting box. Such portable houses can be moved about at will, are enough protection except for extreme cold, are easily cleaned and large enough so the dog can be put on top of the house for grooming or examination. The dog is a Beagle hound. Beagles make wonderful pets, fine watch dogs, and can provide much fun as trail hounds. They are especially adapted to trailing rabbits.

low dogs to drink from stagnant ponds and cess pools because dogs readily drink from such places and may sicken and die from either poisoning or some infectious disease.

For the same reason, do not allow dogs to eat from garbage cans and other refuse containers because, contrary to popular opinion, dogs are very susceptible to certain types of spoiled food. Also, many poisonous materials, such as detergents in common use, can kill dogs as well as other animals. Often, these are present in refuse. Feed pans should be thor-

oughly scrubbed and cleaned after each feeding. Avoid the common practice of feeding on the ground or from a dirty trough. Leave no feed in the pans from one feeding to the next. Except for self fed dogs, the feed pans should be taken up within 20 minutes whether the feed is eaten or not. Often, dogs may not eat an occasional meal. However, if the dog does not eat for more than a day or so, especially if it appears depressed or otherwise sick, it should be examined by a veterinarian. If the animal appears feverish, do not wait but take it to a veterinarian immediately.

SLEEPING AND HOUSING QUARTERS

There are many possibilities as to where the dog may be kept. Except for house or apartment companion dogs, the use to which the dog is to be put may determine where the dog stays. Guard dogs may range over fenced estates. Stock dogs are generally housed in the barn near the livestock. Hunting dogs often have houses and exercise runs of their own.

Any type of housing accomodation will be all right if it is clean, large enough for the dog and reasonably weather proof and draft free. Plans for a variety of dog houses ranging from converted barrels to elaborate dog houses are available. Converted box stalls are commonly used for stock-handling dogs.

CONFINING TO QUARTERS

The usual practice is to allow dogs almost unlimited freedom of the premises as well as the premises of most neighbors. This is very unsatisfactory and has caused many people to resent dogs so much that, in cities and towns, many unfair restricting ordinances have been enacted to force dog owners to keep their dogs at home. Aside from the above, several very good reasons can be given for confining the dog to its quarters when it is not with the owner or a member of the family.

The wandering dog may get into all kinds of mischief such as killing chickens or sheep, chasing cattle or other livestock as well as automobiles or trains. The last mentioned habit has cost many a dog its life and every day many more are severely injured, and sometimes hopelessly crippled.

It is well known among owners of stock handling dogs that the dogs work better if kept in their quarters when not actually at work as they associate freedom with their work. The possible exception here is the full time estate guard dog or the companion-shepherd of the isolated range flocks where an isolated shepherd and his dogs care for large bands of sheep day and night throughout the herding season. Hunting dogs are usually confined when not at work, as are specially trained dogs such as police or Seeing Eye dogs.

When females are in season, they have to be confined to prevent uncontrolled mating and possible loss or injury, especially from being struck



A small box stall makes an excellent place to house the stock handling dog. Any clean, dry bedding can be used. Many owners of valuable trained stock dogs believe that when not actually out with the owner or the herds, the dogs should be confined to their quarters. This way, the dogs associate freedom with their work and often perform much better. Such dogs seldom are killed by automobiles or other vehicles. And they are less likely to develop undesirable habits.

by automobiles. Enclosures need to be such that the bitch cannot climb out or dig under to escape.

EXERCISE

Usually, there is no exercise problem with the farm or working dog. Hunting dogs are often confined to small quarters during the off season and then are hunted too hard and too long before "breaking in" at the start of the next hunting season. Gradual conditioning should always be used when the hunting season approaches, using care to harden the foot pads as well as the animal's muscles. Avoid overwork and fatigue, especially in handling puppies or young dogs.

Always temper the exercise to the training and condition of the dog as many pointers and setters are ruined each hunting season by just taking the dog from his pen and hunting too far, too fast and too long the first day. Avoid fatigue in young dogs which are undergoing training of any type. It is much better to use short, easy lessons and repeat next day than to try too long at any one time.

GROOMING AND CARE OF THE COAT

Brush Coat Daily.—Except for dogs being fitted for show, probably the most neglected of all care chores is the daily brushing to which every dog is entitled but seldom gets, even as a house pet. Daily brushing tends to keep the haircoat glossy and clean. It is important to use a brush suited to the haircoat which varies much in texture, density and length in the various breeds. Brush with the hair, working back over the shoulders, the front legs, back and rear quarters. Comb when necessary to remove matted hair and tangles.

Control Vermin.—The old practice of combing fleas, lice and ticks can be replaced by one of the better dips plus clean quarters to control vermin. It is good practice to use a residual dip against lice, fleas and ticks but this should be done according to the directions of the manufacturer.

Puppies are much more likely to be killed by accidents than older dogs so care must be used in applying such dips. Never put dogs, especially puppies, through dips or sprays used on other classes of livestock as puppies have been killed this way.

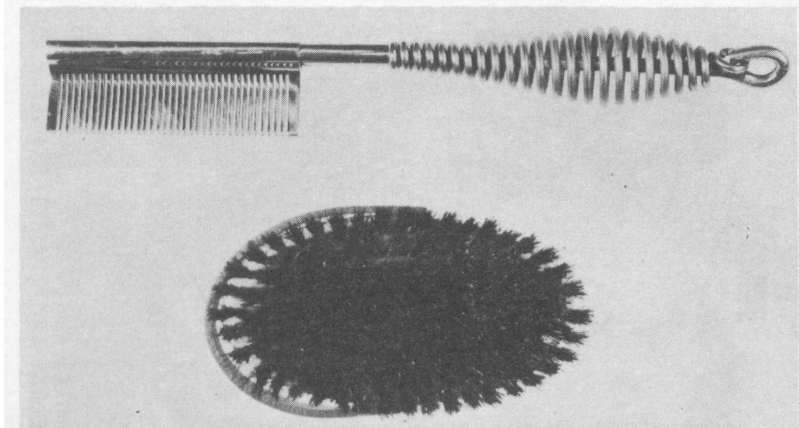
Rough coated watch breeds such as terriers or schnauzers should be stripped twice yearly and trimmed frequently in order to look their best. It is not usually necessary to shear or clip long haired breeds in hot weather except to treat skin diseases.

Bathe the dog occasionally but do not overdo it. Many dogs enjoy swimming and do so at every opportunity. When bathing a dog, use any mild soap but be sure to thoroughly rinse it from the hair coat.

Regular check-over or inspection should be made of the eyes, ears, feet, teeth and gums for anything not normal and healthy. If anything is found wrong, take the dog to a veterinarian. Owner treatment and medication should always be done under the direction of a competent graduate veterinarian because far more puppies are killed by injudicious medication than is generally realized. "Good" neighbors are always ready to "offer suggestions" but these are always at the expense and often regret of the owner. Failure to eat and a droopy attitude indicate a sick animal. Just because puppies are "pot-bellied" is no reason to suspect they are wormy. Never worm a dog until an examination of the feces indicates which worms are present. Different worms must be treated in different ways, and the veterinarian is in the best position to do this job right.

Protect From Disease.—Two diseases that may attack dogs are distemper and rabies. A dog worth owning is deserving of protection against rabies. This immunization is renewed each year.

Distemper, predominately a disease of young dogs, kills large numbers of puppies every year. It is worthwhile to use distemper immunization of some type to protect the puppy into adulthood. While not as effec-



Use of the comb and brush to give the dog a daily grooming is very desirable. Except for bench show dogs, most owners neglect this chore. It is as essential to groom the dog daily as it is to groom a horse daily. Once a week, work fresh cornmeal well into the coat of the dog, then brush it completely out. Such "dry cleaning" or "shampoo" takes the place of a bath, which dogs need only when absolutely necessary, such as to renew anti-tick dip. A good antivermin powder can well take the place of some of the dips although in bad tick areas, it is necessary to use a strong residual wet dip two or three times during the height of the tick season. However, the comb and brush applied with plenty of elbow grease will do wonders for the dog's coat.

tive as desired, puppies which have had distemper immunization before they are exposed to the disease usually survive and are not so sick if they do contract distemper. There are several ways to attempt immunization of puppies against distemper and it is largely a matter of choice for the veterinarian working with the owner which method is used.

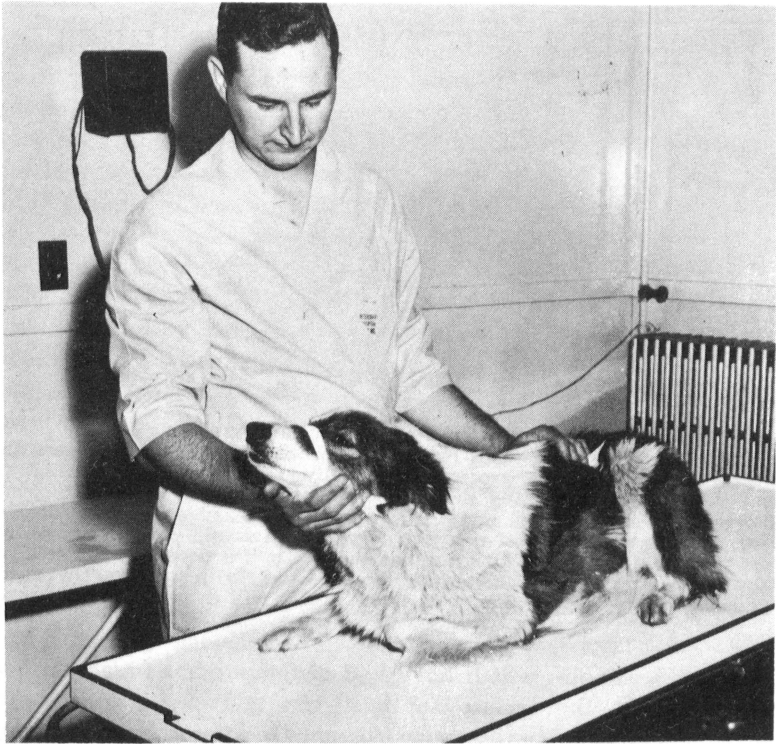
Good veterinary attention is excellent insurance against loss of valuable livestock. Dogs are no exception.

TRANSPORTATION AND PHYSICAL HANDLING OF DOGS

The usual method is to ship the dog by express. The animal must be accompanied by a health certificate from a veterinarian. Some states and also Canada have special regulations pertaining to the importation of dogs. These rules must be observed in order to avoid much trouble with the regulatory officials of the state or country in question.

Use Good Shipping Crate

Shipping containers are available commercially or you can build one. The chief things to remember are that the cage (or crate) be sturdy enough to stand handling, that provision be made for both feeding and watering, and the cage must be large enough that the dog can turn around and lie down. The cage should be so made that plenty of air is provided even though the crate is crowded against the wall or is surrounded and covered by other articles in transit.



Muzzling a dog is the first step in handling if there is any doubt about his biting. Numerous types of muzzles are available commercially. One of the best is the standard leather strap muzzle used to train war dogs and illustrated in the War Dog Training Manual. Most often used by veterinarians is some variation of the bandage or sash cord type muzzle. The best of these is the clove hitch tied behind the ears and set just tight enough that the dog cannot open its mouth. A rapid method is to tie a half hitch on top the nose, a square knot under the chin, and pass the ends back to the poll behind the ears and secure with a bow knot. The knot is shown in the picture but is applied too far back on the muzzle for a long nosed breed. The idea is simply to tie the mouth shut so the dog cannot bite.

For local transporting, crates fitted into the back of automobiles are popular. Dogs often ride in the car with passengers rather than in crates. This is especially true of companion and gun dogs. An occasional dog may be bothered by car sickness. This can usually be avoided if the dog is not fed for several hours before riding in the car. One should never leave a dog in the car if the windows are tightly closed as there is danger of the dog smothering.

Training Makes Handling Easier

Dogs that are old enough should always be lead broke in order that handling can be made easier. If necessary to examine or groom a dog, all except the very largest breeds should be placed on a smooth, slick topped



One method of lifting and supporting a heavy dog is shown. If the dog is one that might bite, the loose skin at the nape of the neck is held firmly rather than supporting the head as shown. The lifting is done by the handler's legs rather than by his back and the dog is partially supported on the handler's hip as shown. For examination, the animal is placed on a slick-topped table. Smaller dogs can be lifted by a hand under the chest and very large dogs can be examined standing on the floor. A variation of the above is to use both hands in lifting, one under the chest and one between the rear limbs. The dog is steadied by passing the arms between the fore and rear limbs. Medium sized dogs are easily handled this way if gentle.

table of convenient height. Small and medium dogs are lifted by placing a hand under the chest. Larger dogs, by a hand under the chest and the abdomen supported on the hip. The dog is steadied by grasping the near foreleg and, if necessary, by holding the loose skin along the back of the neck by the other hand. If there is any doubt at all about the dog's temperament tie the mouth shut with a clove hitch around the muzzle before proceeding with the examination, treatment or grooming.

TRAINING

Training can be divided into two general phases, *basic* and *advanced* or *specialty* training. Basic training includes all those things that any dog should be able to do, regardless of the purpose for which the dog is used. If the dog is to be kept in the house, housebreaking is started at weaning age. The puppy can also be broke to a light collar and leash at an early age but more advanced training is best delayed until the dog is four to six months old although some puppies learn easier and earlier than others.

Basic Training

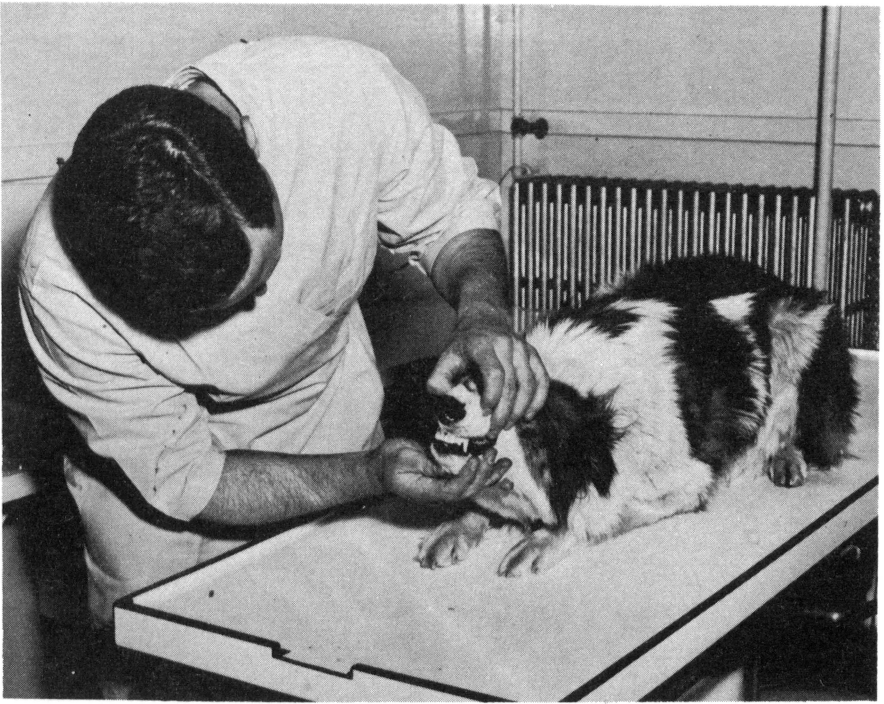
If basic obedience training were made a part of every dog owner's routine, there would be far less criticism of dogs by the non-fancier. The word obedience means that the dog is under the absolute control of the handler when not actually penned or otherwise confined in its movements. Although there are professional dog trainers and dog schools, much fun and valuable experience can be gained if the owner will take the time and exercise the patience to train his own dog, at least as far as the basic training goes.

Use Short Words.—The training can be done in any quiet place away from confusion. By the time basic training starts, the pup should know its call name and should come when called by name. It should also be familiar with the collar and leash, or harness, as the fundamental basis of all advanced training rests on proper breaking to lead. Choose short, one syllable words that convey the meaning, and, once started, *do not change them*. Come or here, no, sit, down, stay, fetch, heel, bed, are examples.

There are many other possibilities for choices but keep them simple and always speak them the same way, as the voice and inflection are as important or possibly more so than the actual word. Individual commands and variations can always be used as long as no changes are made after starting the training. Whistles, hand signals and other devices enter into advanced training, depending on what the training is intended for. These all come under specialties. Your county agent can suggest where you can obtain special training guides.

Be Patient.—Patience is of the greatest importance in training a dog. Repetition and practice, rather than punishment makes for success in basic training. Punishment has its place more to discourage "breaks" of commands after the dog (hunters) knows what the command means but ignores them. Much praise and petting tempered to the successful performance of a command is better than the use of tempting food for most training.

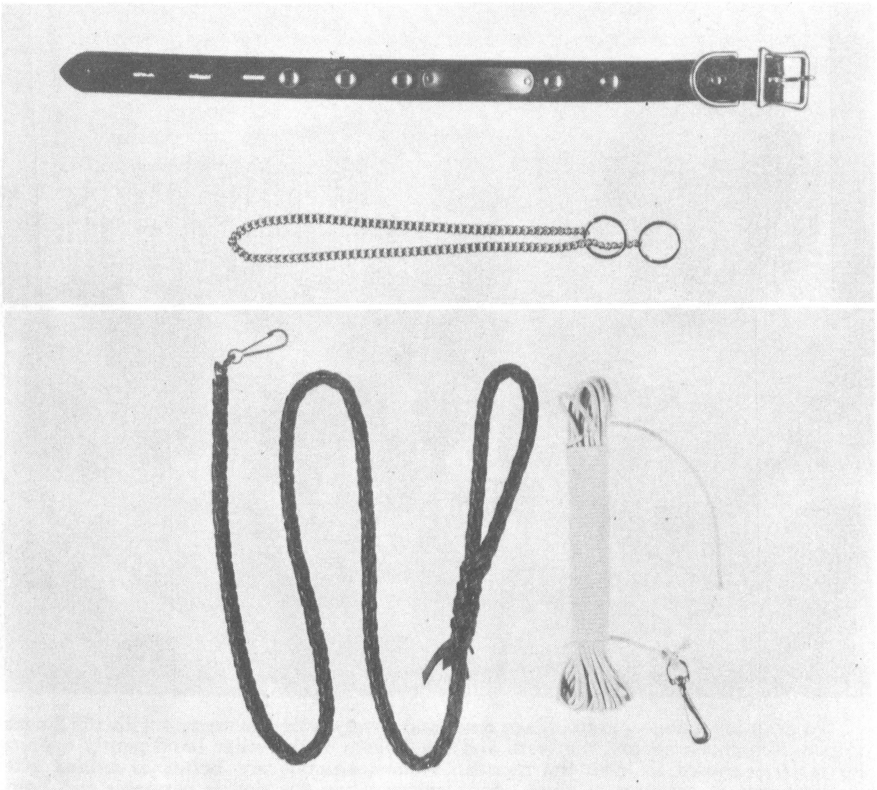
Train Regularly.—Training lessons should not be long enough to be tiresome but patience, kindness and firm enforcement without show of anger over a ten to fifteen minute period is effective. Lessons each day



To examine a dog's mouth, place one hand firmly over the muzzle with the fingers pressing the cheek against the teeth and the fingers of the other hand gently opening the jaws as shown to open the mouth. Vicious animals are better examined after an anesthetic or sedative is given. By starting when the dog is a puppy and being careful not to hurt him, he soon learns to open his mouth for inspection without much protest. Older dogs often resent attempts to examine their mouth if they have not been handled much. A good light is needed to properly examine the mouth. Daily inspection of the dog's mouth is desirable in order to remove any hard objects which may have wedged between the teeth. At the first sign of anything not normal, take your dog to your veterinarian. Prompt attention of this kind often stops more serious trouble before it starts.

give quicker results, but to be effective a training session should be held at least three times per week. Start with one command at first and then, as more commands are learned, go through several until after a few months, the dog will perform all commands without the leash.

To start leash breaking, first teach the dog the command "heel" or "to heel" or "at heel" by forcing him to walk just even with the left side and just back of the handler. For a gun dog, lefthanded shooters may use the right side. The dog is pulled up if he lags or pulled back if he attempts to run ahead. After the dog knows this command at a slow pace, he soon learns to do it at changes of pace. After eight or ten lessons, he should do this command without the leash but if he breaks command, immediately return him to the leash. The dog can be checked-in from running forward



The plain leather collar with the name plate should be worn except when a working or hunting dog is actually in such places that it might become "hung-up" by the collar and strangled. Such dogs are advanced specialists and generally are not as likely to be lost from their owner. They should be tattooed for positive identification. The chain collar is one form of training collar and it is always so placed on the dog that it immediately loosens when not actually being pulled against. It is worked with both the short leash and the long training leash as the occasion demands. Such collars are not necessary but they are very desirable for obedience training. The standard collar can also be used in training the various commands and often is. The long leash is simply a piece of light sash cord 25 to 50 feet in length with a snap for convenience.

by fanning his nose with the leash end, or use of a special force training collar.

The command "sit" works naturally with this first lesson and is given a few times by pressing or the motion of striking down on the dog's rump while holding the leash high, forcing the animal into the sitting position. "Stand" naturally follows "sit" and "stay" naturally follows sit or stand. "Down" could be taught before the command "stay" if the trainer wishes. After the dog thoroughly knows each command he is worked through them without the leash until no use of the leash is necessary. The dog



This Border Collie is obeying the commands "sit" and "stay."

should instantly do any command given and from any gait, without the leash if he is really thoroughly "leashbroken."

The command "no" is taught to use as a correction aid and to prevent the dog from developing bad habits such as chasing cars, barking at postmen, annoying livestock, jumping on people, and other undesirable acts. It is taught in the same way as the other commands. Almost any other command, such as various tricks and the specialties, can be taught once the dog is thoroughly trained on the basic commands.

Advanced Training

There are many persons who professionally train dogs in various advanced specialties such as advanced obedience, stock handling of many types, guard and police sentry (war dogs), first-aid dogs, "seeing-eye" or guide dogs for the blind, and hunting dogs of several types. Although the exact methods used vary with the trainers, the basic fundamentals mentioned above apply to all of them.

Like training any other animal, dog training is fixing of desirable habits and discouraging of undesirable habits. If you plan specialty training, follow one of the proved training systems such as the Bradford system of training stock handling shepherds and adapt it to your circumstances, or hire a specialist to train your dog. Many hunting dogs are trained by special trainers who do this work for a living. Several systems for advanced training of dogs are available. References for these are given on page 26.

If an owner will take the time and care to properly train his own dog a great deal of pleasure as well as satisfaction from the accomplishment will be realized in a manner which cannot be bought with money.

BREAKING BAD HABITS

Start Early.—Bad habits, like good ones, are easily formed but difficult to break. The best idea is to start early enough with the pup that bad or undesirable habits can be avoided before they get into a behavior plan. Here is the one place the dog must associate his bad habit with undesirable results such as physical pain (punishment) and his owner's displeasure. Jumping upon people is usually an easy habit to break by either stepping upon the back toes or by raising the knee into his chest attended by a command such as "no" or "down." A vigorous jerk of the leash as the animal starts to jump is also effective and no reward is given for properly doing the command "no" under this circumstance.

Chasing motor cars, or any vehicle, is a dangerous habit and must be vigorously and promptly broken. Several ways can be used such as dousing by water from a slowly moving auto or even better, a long leash vigorously applied so the dog has a bad tumble often will break this habit. In case of a bicycle or motor cycle, a vigorous whipping with a light whip or switch may break the dog. Sometimes, all these methods need to be patiently used many times. To be most effective, the person punishing the dog should be the one he set out to chase.

Annoying livestock can be a serious vice but a properly trained farm dog helps with rather than annoys livestock. He can and should be trained to work poultry as well as any class farm animal. In case of uncontrolled, untrained or stray dogs, the annoying of livestock often goes to

the point of attacking and killing poultry, lambs and calves. Always encourage the good and discourage the bad habits. For the dog, like any other animal, is a creature of habit, whether skillfully taught or self learned by trial and error.

REGISTRATION

There are over 110 breeds of dogs eligible to registry in the American Kennel Club, Garden City, New York. Coonhounds and many other breeds are registered in the United Kennel Club. The North American Sheep Dog Society, Wooster, Ohio, is the official registry of the Border Collie and other trained stock-handling dogs in this country. The British and the Canadian dog fancier have their own official registration societies. In addition, there are also various breed societies that maintain registry records. Some breeds of dogs may be eligible to registry in several of the above registries. Information is available, often just by writing for it, at the headquarters of the various registry organization and from magazines catering to the dog fancier.

Register Purebred Dog.—As mentioned before in this circular, if you plan to later raise a litter of puppies, get a purebred bitch and be sure that all necessary registration and transfer papers are delivered at the time you purchase the puppy. Then, when you decide to raise pups, it will be possible to use your pick of the available studs of the same breed as the bitch. Be sure the sire is also registered, and see that the puppy litter is registered when it arrives. Then there will be no difficulty in “delivering the paper” when your pups are sold.

It is the responsibility of the seller to properly transfer the paper on the dog but the buyer must stand by his rights to see that he is receiving what he pays for. Minors, dealing with the AKC need their parent or legal guardian to sign with them on all such registrations and transfers but this is also true of most legal transactions where minors are involved. Most reliable breeders are glad to help the beginner wherever they can and are very helpful in making sure that the agreement is satisfactory to both buyer and seller. It is to the interest of everyone concerned to do so. Even though you may choose to work out an advanced specialty with your dog rather than raise a litter of puppies, it is best to use a registered purebred dog. If the dog is a male and he develops into an exceptionally fine stock-handler, demands for stud services might arise. The properly registered dog can turn a nice fee if his stud service is in demand.

In case a properly registered and marked (recorded Preston tattoo number) dog is lost or stolen, recovery would be easier than otherwise, as identification would be positive.

IDENTIFICATION DATA

NAME TO WHICH DOG RESPONDS _____

DATE _____

BREED _____

SEX _____ AGE _____

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER _____

DESCRIPTION OF COAT:

COLOR _____ TEXTURE _____

INDICATE MARKINGS IN COLOR

SPECIAL MARKINGS _____

ANY UNUSUAL FEATURES _____

SHORT OR LONG HAired _____

COLLAR MARKING _____

EAR TYPE: ERECT _____ OR DROOPING _____

OTHER _____

TAIL: LONG _____ SHORT _____ BUSHY _____

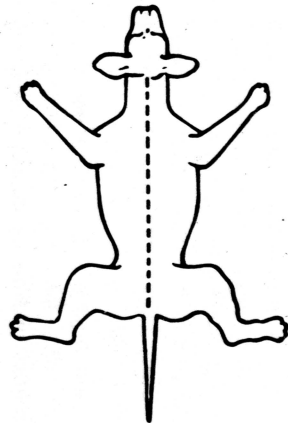
OTHER _____

HEIGHT AT SHOULDER _____ INCHES.

WEIGHT _____

SIDE VIEW PHOTOGRAPH

FRONT VIEW PHOTOGRAPH



BREEDING OF DOGS

Before deciding to raise a litter of pups, consider carefully such things as the breed, demand for the pups in the community, the expense of stud fees and transportation to and from the stud. Special care of the brood bitch during gestation, whelping and nursing periods will be necessary.

Select Good Male.—Before breeding the bitch, select a male with desirable characteristics. In the case of a stock handling dog, performance is an important factor while general appearance and style are more or less secondary.

Physical soundness is always a desirable characteristic of both the sire and dam. It is a waste of time to mate animals with unsound physical conditions such as malformations of the body, hernia, natural blindness or deafness.

Such things as the herding instinct of Border Collies, bird smell sense of pointers, setters and many spaniels, or retrieving are natural tendencies which exceptional males pass on to their progeny.

Disposition is an important thing to consider and is difficult to separate from the above listed traits. Avoid sires that show viciousness or nervousness unless this trait is desired. Usually, such dogs are undesirable except as attack or fighting dogs. Certain war dogs and the “killer” dog of coyote, lion, or cat hunting dog teams are about the only accepted use of vicious “killer” dogs. Personal liability for owning such dogs if damage to people, livestock, or other property is done can certainly be a reason against the average club member owning such a dog.

Terriers naturally have an aggressive attitude and this is desirable in a “ratter” but very undesirable in the shepherd dog. The trailhounds such as coonhounds need a certain amount of aggressiveness but viciousness is not a desirable trait. With patience, the multi-purpose dog such as German Short Hair Pointer can be trained to do most of the desirable work from hunting to guard dog or vermin killer. They can also be trained as stock dogs. Also, this is true of almost any breed of multi-purpose dogs. Dalmatians make fine gun dogs with proper training, and an occasional shepherd can be hunted over as a gun dog or taught to retrieve although they do not naturally do so. Even the larger terriers can be taught to handle livestock. Because of their small size, the toy and miniature breeds are not suited to stock handling.

The most important thing in selecting the male, then is the proved performance for the task desired if the other factors mentioned are kept in mind. The size of the bitch and dog should be approximately the same. As with the dog, the bitch should be physically sound in conformation. Stunted bitches which have suffered from rickets, like other livestock,

may have difficulty in normal delivery of their young. The bitch should not be bred before her second oestrus, and in large breeds, not before her third oestral period. Likewise, males should be fully grown before using them as studs.

If your dog is to be a registered animal, be sure the proper registration papers are signed and in possession. With AKC registered dogs, litter register the pups. The UKC and American Sheep Dog Society also have special regulations that you must be familiar with and follow in order to avoid registration difficulty. There are also the various breed societies with their special regulations. The time to procure and become familiar with all the regulations of this type is *before you get the first puppy to raise*. Then, as breeding age approaches this information is part of your working knowledge. Much of how you go about the breeding business depends upon the kind of a dog you have.

Control Mating.—Care of the female dog presents no special problem except during the oestral period (heat) which usually first appears between six or seven months in the first year and recurs thereafter about every six months except when interrupted by pregnancy. Occasionally, an individual bitch may experience only one oestral period per year while others have three. The average oestral period has two phases. Usually, the first ten days is attended with swelling of the vulva and discharge of blood tinged fluid from the genitals. During the last of the first phase of "heat" the discharge from the vulva decreases and is less blood tinged or may cease and the restlessness and increased appetite become more a desire to associate with male dogs and to roam fast and far unless closely penned. Males become more interested and seek the bitch if she cannot seek them.

Anytime from the ninth day through the 19 to 20th days after onset of oestrus the bitch will be receptive to the males. It is during this period that absolute confinement of the bitch is necessary to prevent uncontrolled mating. Controlled mating is best done during the last week or so of the second phase. Some breeders prefer to mate the bitch two or three times, allowing a day between mating although one mating at the proper time is sufficient. Generally, the owner of the stud supervises the mating to prevent accidental injuries to either the bitch or the stud. Certain breed associations as well as the AKC require that mating be actually witnessed as a registration requirement. While possible, artificial insemination is not very practical under present registry rules. Some breed societies actually frown on the practice.

As a rule, set fees are charged for stud service and no guarantee or return service is implied although exceptions to this may be made by individual agreement. One caution here: Be sure all such agreements are in

writing. Then, they become actual contracts. Contract forms for dog breeding purposes are readily available for a small cost. It is the responsibility of the bitch's owner to see to the costs of transporting her to and from the stud but the owner of the stud usually assumes responsibility for the bitch while she is actually at his kennel. This also covers the supervision of the mating with the sire agreed upon.

Actual care of the bitch during season is no different than at any other time except the precautions to prevent uncontrolled mating. The bitch will climb over or dig under fences that would, at other times, be entirely adequate. Toward the end of the receptive phase, from 18 to 21 days following onset of season, the bitch starts to fight off the dogs but might actually copulate. Close confinement is necessary and desirable for an additional four or five days after the apparent end of oestrus to avoid accidental mating. The accidental mating in no way ruins the bitch as far as future litters of pups may be concerned although the litter from a mismating might be ineligible for resigtration. Veterinarians can sometimes terminate undersirable pregnancies in the bitch so that the animal doesn't go full term and whelp a litter of mongrel pups.

Even in purebred litters there may be an occasional pup not typical of the others. This is not serious although such "throw-backs" to a remote ancestor are not as a rule desirable for breeding stock and often cannot be registered as purebred dogs.

The gestation period of the bitch is from 58 to 65 days with an average of 62 or 63 days. It is possible that bitches bred late in the receptive stage may whelp a day or so earlier than average but the time is figured from conception to parturition not from the breeding date as such. Some breeders believe that bitches bred toward the end of the receptive period have larger litters than if bred as soon as the bitch will accept the dog. Some bitches are sterile and fail to conceive regardless of numerous matings. Some bitches conceive but never deliver a litter. This is especially true of aged bitches.

Many bitches which have not mated during oestrus will undergo many of the physical signs of an advancing pregnancy even to the making of a nest as if ready to whelp. They usually have milk in the breasts at the usual time for whelping. This false pregnancy is technically known as pseudocycesis and is not abnormal for the bitch. Some bitches fail to conceive but go through a false pregnancy after breeding. An experienced veterinarian can usually determine whether anything abnormal is happening.

Good Care Needed.—During gestation, the bitch requires a balanced diet as at any other time. As pregnancy advances, more food is eaten until the bitch starts to prepare her nest for whelping. No food and a

small amount of water should be given on the day the bitch whelps. Slow and gradual return to a full diet is made during the week following whelping. While the bitch usually requires no assistance, an attendant should be present during whelping to make sure no difficulties arise. The attendant handles the puppies no more than is necessary to make sure they do not smother from being entrapped in the fetal membranes. The bitch usually attends to severing the umbilical cord and removing the afterbirth but in very large litters, she may need help.

In case of difficult or delayed parturition beyond two or three hours after the bitch starts to labor, take her to a veterinarian at once. Then, if a Caesarian section operation is required, both the bitch and the pups stand a good chance of survival. The worn-out, toxic bitch full of dead pups is a poor surgical risk and many veterinarians hesitate to operate on such an animal.

The quarters of the brood bitch should be clean, draftless and vermin free with plenty of fresh, clean bedding. The less the bitch and pups are molested during the first week, the better. Puppies are born with their ears and eyes sealed shut. These open in nine to fourteen days as a rule without any special attention. The puppies will usually nurse for four or five weeks at which time the bitch will start to wean them and they can be switched to the regular puppy growing diet. As mentioned before in this circular, puppies are best fed often and not too much at a feeding. The puppy runs should be on clean grounds where older dogs have not ranged in order to decrease the danger of parasitism. Unless actually infested with worms the puppy should not be wormed. Only the kind of worms present should be treated for and this should be under the direction of a licensed veterinarian.

Most experienced dog breeders like to sell their puppies when between four and six months of age although, in the case of stock dogs or show dogs, little can be told at such an early age about how good the dog will be when grown. Many a puppy sold as the least desirable of a litter has grown up and repeatedly defeated littermates kept as probably better dogs, both as field trial performers and bench show dogs. It is not a good idea to sell the pups too young and one loses money on them if kept too long unless, of course, they are sold as dogs trained in some specialty.

LAWS ABOUT DOGS

Laws regulating dogs are essentially the same as those which regulate personal property rather than livestock as such. Likewise, any destruction to property or injuries to livestock or people come under the general liability laws of Missouri. There are no Federal laws governing dogs except those of the U. S. Public Health or the Pure Foods and Drugs acts which can be applied to dogs where necessary to protect the common good or to avoid fraud in such things as medical supplies or feed stuff. Likewise, applications of the income tax include dogs indirectly as personal property.

Nearly all the states and most foreign countries have definite rules governing the importation of dogs. In general, an interstate health certificate made by an approved veterinarian of the state of origin is required. In some instances, special certification is also required, usually as to the status of rabies vaccination or the lack of rabies in the area of origin. Special exceptions are often made for breeding dogs, show troupe dogs, show dogs of certain kinds, and dogs in transit through the state.

Before attempting to ship a dog from one state to another or between countries, find out what the regulations are. This information is available from the state veterinarian, or most licensed veterinarians can furnish the information. Also, many Railway Express agents can give the necessary information. The express company also requires their own livestock contract rather than the usual bill of lading, and can refuse to accept for shipment an unhealthy dog. Since the rules are constantly being changed and vary within certain areas because of quarantine regulations check the regulations just before you ship the dog.

Within the United States, the states, most cities and some lesser government subdivisions have rules governing dogs. There is a lack of uniformity and the legal status of the dog varies from area to area. Numerous legal actions involving dogs in one way or another have taken place and are available for reference.

In most states, dogs actually chasing or annoying livestock can be killed but under some circumstances, the owner of the dog can sue and recover damages. In most states trespassing is not an offense for which the dog can be killed without the owner having resource to the courts for the recovery of damages. Likewise, if an unattended dog caused an auto wreck with property damage or injuries resulting from the dog's action, recovery of damage may be possible against the owner of the dog. This is true of other farm animals except where free range is posted along the highway.

Nearly all states, cities and lesser government units have rules against cruelty to animals, including dogs. These rules are quite restrictive in

some of the eastern states and the larger cities. The chief ones to remember are: leaving dogs in tightly closed automobiles during warm weather; not providing food and water in the proper way; and other forms of neglect which would cause suffering by the dog are common complaints against dog owners.

For those desiring to study more of the laws as they pertain to dogs, consult the booklet by Judy as listed in this circular under references.

Those wishing to have protection against possible damage claims resulting from actions of their dog can use either special or general personal liability insurance. If a person owns any property such as a home or farm, such insurance should be carried as protection against possible damage claims, real or otherwise, resulting from accidents to others while on one's property.

REFERENCES

There is much information about dogs available in excellent books, circulars and magazines at reasonable cost. Public libraries, school libraries and privately owned collections are often available for loan of reference materials to the club members. Another source of material for the raising, care, feeding and breeding of dogs is from the literature furnished by commercial dog food manufacturers who make nominal charges or in some instances no charges at all for this service. Some of the latest and non-technical references that can be used with this circular are given below.

- The Complete Dog Book*, (AKC)
- The Training Manual*, (War Dogs) T. M. N. 10-396 War Dept.
- Working Dogs*, Elliott Humphrey and Lucien Waraner
- Heather Jean, The Working Sheep Dog*, Luke J. Pasco
- How To Train Hunting Dogs*, William F. Brown
- Modern Dog Encyclopedia*, Henry P. Davis
- The 12-in-1 Dog Book*, Will Judy
- Training the Herding Dog*, Carl H. Bradford
- Companion Dog Training*, Hans Tossuti

WHERE TO FIND IT

	Page
Selecting a Dog	3
The Breed and Family	3
Feeding and Care	5
Care of Feed and Water Containers	6
Sleeping and Housing Quarters	8
Confining to Quarters	8
Exercise	9
Grooming and Care of the Coat	10
Transportation and Physical Handling of Dogs	11
Use Good Shipping Crate	11
Training Makes Handling Easier	12
Training	14
Basic Training	14
Advanced Training	18
Breaking Bad Habits	18
Registration	19
Identification Data Chart	20
Breeding of Dogs	21
Laws About Dogs	25
References	26

4-H RECORD

DOG PROJECT

To be used with Circular 107

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ County _____

Name of 4-H Club _____

Name of Club Leader _____

Project Leader _____

Jr. Project Chairman _____

Club Meeting attended during year _____ Project meetings held _____

Number attended _____ Number of units in completed project _____

Number of _____ Dog _____ demonstrations given at:

Club meetings _____, Project meetings _____, County meetings _____

District meeting _____, State meeting _____.

Number of times participated in Judging work in:

Project meetings _____, County _____, District _____, State _____

Interstate _____.

Number of exhibits made in:

Community _____, County _____, District _____, State _____, Interstate _____

Participated in:

County Achievement _____, District Round-up _____, State Contest Pro-

gram _____, National Contests _____, County Fair or Show _____, Dis-

trict Fair _____, State Fair _____, Interstate Show _____, Marketing Days _____,

County Camp _____, District Camp _____, State Camp _____,

National Camp _____, National Club Congress _____, New stories

published _____, Radio programs participated in _____.

Served on _____ Standing Committee.

4-H Activity selected by club for this year _____

Brief of club achievements in club activity, health and recreation _____

Year _____

Was animal entered in a competitive obedience test event? _____

If so what was the judge's rating? _____

Was dog exhibited at a bench show? _____ Rating _____

Work for which dog was trained _____

Bad habits developed and corrected _____

Breeding Record

Date female was mated _____

Name and registry number of stud dog _____

Date litter was whelped _____

Number in litter _____ Males saved _____

Females saved _____ Number sold _____

Number given away _____ Number on hand at close of project _____

Sales Record

Date	Puppy's Name	Age	Sales Price

Total _____

Financial Summary

Cost of animals purchased _____

Total commercial feed purchased _____

Cost of equipment _____

Spent for Veterinary services _____

Other expenses _____

Total _____

Receipts from sales _____

Prizes won _____

Other receipts _____

Total _____

Project Requirement

1. Own and care for one or more purebred dogs (male or female).
2. Dogs must carry collar and identification tags at all times.
3. All dogs included in the project must be immunized for rabies annually.
4. Dogs must pass simple obedience test: Come here, No, Sit down, Lie down, Heel.
5. The dog or dogs must show the result of some training as a stock dog, hunting dog, watch dog, rat dog or a combination of two or more of these qualifications.
6. All bitches must be kept under control during heat periods to prevent indiscriminate mating.
7. Female, if mated, will be mated to a stud dog of the same breed.

Project Report

Date Project Started _____

Dog's Name _____

Breed _____ Is dog registered _____

Male or female _____

Age of animal at the beginning of the project _____

Date animal was immunized for rabies _____

Date identification tag was secured _____

Response to Obedience Commands

Command	Responds Readily	Responds Sometimes	Responds Poorly or Not at All
Come or Here			
Down			
Sit			
Stay			
No			
Fetch			
Heel			
Bed			

STORY

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING

J. W. BURCH, Director, Agricultural Extension Service
Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914